

Appln. No. 09/955,858
Response dated July 1, 2005
Reply to Notice of June 22, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9 and add new claims 10-18 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (New). A method of acquiring image data from a sample, wherein the sample is divided into a plurality of scanning regions, and the scanning regions each have a predetermined size, the method comprising the steps of:

scanning a first scanning region to measure light from the sample;

measuring light on a boundary between the first scanning region and a second scanning region that is adjacent to the first scanning region, and

moving the boundary inside the first scanning region.

Claim 11 (New). The method according to claim 10, wherein the sample has a plurality of spots that emit the light, the

Appln. No. 09/955,858
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spots are arranged on a substrate of the sample, and the moving includes moving the boundary between spot lines.

Claim 12 (New). The method according to claim 10, wherein the light is reflection light, transmission light, scattered light or fluorescence.

Claim 13 (New). The method according to claim 10, wherein the sample is a DNA microarray.

Claim 14 (New). The method according to claim 10, wherein the moving includes moving the boundary when intensity of the measured light is higher than a predetermined threshold.

Claim 15 (New). The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

acquiring scanned image data with the measured light within the first scanning region;

5 scanning the second scanning region to measure the light from the sample, the second scanning region having the boundary moved inside the first scanning region;

Appln. No. 09/955,858
Response dated July 1, 2005
Reply to Notice of June 22, 2005

acquiring scanned image data with the measured light within the second scanning region; and

- 10 acquiring image data of a region including the first scanning region and the second scanning region with the scanned image data of each scanning region.

Claim 16 (New). The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of irradiating light onto the first scanning region.

Claim 17 (New). The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of scanning includes scanning the first scanning region to measure the light from the sample, while irradiating light onto the first scanning region.

Claim 18 (New). The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of scanning includes moving the sample.